

LOS ALTOS HILLS



CALIFORNIA

Los Altos Hills

## TOWN NEWSLETTER

Volume XLIX No. 3

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### CALENDAR

**October 7, 8 Sat., Sun.,** Fall Festival 10 AM-5 PM; Info. 948-1455

**OCTOBER 23, Monday** — Last day to register to vote for the November 7 election. Forms available by calling City Clerk at 650-941-7222

**October 28, Saturday, 9AM** - Pacific Ridge Pony Club 14th Annual Halloween Horse Show Fund Raiser, Westwind Barn; Costume class 12Noon; Lunch & Snacks for sale.

**November 17, Friday** Holiday Stroll Los Altos, 5 PM. Info. 948-1455

**Mark Your Calendar!**



**January 10, 2007**  
Living with Wildlife --  
Meet the Owls:  
Informational Meeting  
at Town Hall; 7:30 PM-  
9:30PM; Info. 941-4808

### SCHOOL DISTRICT REORGANIZATION PETITION

Our Town has embarked on an effort to create a new elementary school district, which will be available to all of our children in grades K through 8. Our children will be able to attend elementary school in town, with their neighbors, and we will strengthen the sense of community for all. (See Map in Insert - currently no public school in Town boundaries.)

Specifically the petition calls for the creation of a new K-8 school district covering all of the Hills. This district would control the remaining school sites in Town. This district would have its own elected school board, which would have as its sole mission the education of our public school children through the 8th grade. As such, we would be on par with Woodside (population: 5,350) and Portola Valley (population: 4,400), both of which are smaller than Los Altos Hills (population 7,900) and both of which have their own neighborhood elementary school.

We anticipate that students currently in school at the time reorganization ballot passes at the polls will have the option of being "grandfathered in" to continue attendance at their current elementary schools. That is a standard practice under the State code (law) that defines the reorganization process.

The petition further calls for our high school students to remain in the attendance areas of Gunn High School (PAUSD) and Los Altos or Mountain View High Schools (MVLA), effectively using the current attendance boundaries.

PAUSD, in a letter to LAH residents, suggests that reorganizing is some kind of Pandora's Box where virtually anything can happen. Actually the process is governed by the California Education Code; and only those solutions will be implemented that are supported by law, waiver, and/or special legislation the County/State, and, ultimately, LAH voters. None of you have to worry about losing access to Gunn in this process.

#### NEXT STEPS

The petition goes first to the SCCOE (Santa Clara County Office of Education) where it is assigned to a special committee that deals with reorganization requests, the County Committee for School District Organization ("County Committee"). We expect some back-and-forth activity as the County Committee does its work.

**First**, the County must determine whether the petition has merit and due consideration. The County has indicated a hearing on this matter will occur on December 7, 2006.

**Second**, the County staff and Committee must study the reorganization options and make a substantive decision.

**Third**, there is an opportunity to appeal to the State Board of Education to adopt or reject the plan.

**Finally**, the voters of Los Altos Hills must approve any proposed reorganization through an election. The County Superintendent, Dr. Colleen Wilcox has estimated the reorganization process could take anywhere from 18 months to 4 years. (See Flow Chart in Insert.)

During this time voters in our Town will be given many opportunities to hear from your City Council on the progress of the petition and to give us input at our City Council meetings.

If you wish to give input or volunteer on this subject please contact City Clerk Karen Jost at Town Hall, 650-941-7222 or email her at [kjost@losaltoshills.ca.gov](mailto:kjost@losaltoshills.ca.gov).